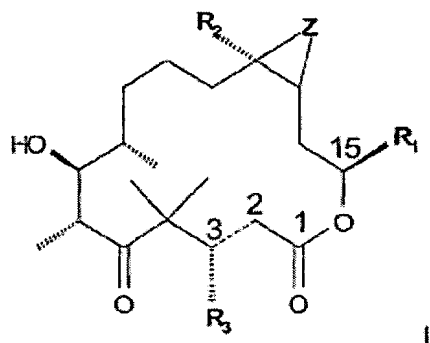


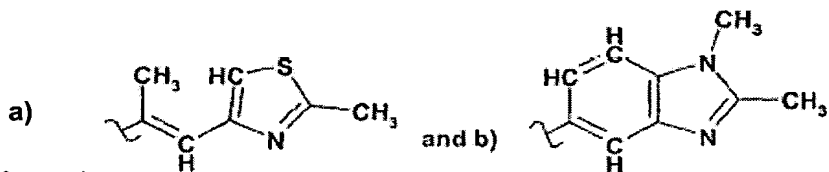
## Amendments to the Claims:

### Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A compound of formula I



Wherein



R<sub>1</sub> is selected from a)

R<sub>2</sub> is lower alkyl or hydrogen

R<sub>3</sub> is OH or hydrogen;

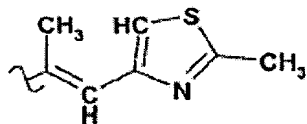
Z is O, C or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

is a single or double bond between C2 and C3;

or salts thereof;

with the proviso that when R<sub>1</sub> is a, R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen and that when R<sub>1</sub> is b, Z is O or a bond, and R<sub>2</sub> is methyl R<sub>3</sub> is not OH.

Claim 2 (original): A compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein



R<sub>1</sub> is ;

R<sub>2</sub> is lower alkyl preferably methyl

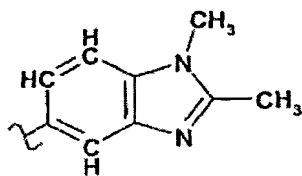
R<sub>3</sub> is hydrogen;

Z is O or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

is a single bond;

or salts thereof.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A The compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein



R<sub>1</sub> is ;

R<sub>2</sub> is lower alkyl or hydrogen

R<sub>3</sub> is OH or hydrogen;

Z is O, C or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

--- is a single or double bond;

or salts thereof;

with the proviso that when R<sub>2</sub> is methyl and Z is O or a bond R<sub>3</sub> is not OH.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A The compound of formula I according to claim 1 selected from, (Z)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-8-Hydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-[(E)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-11-Hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-[(E)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

(Z)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

(E)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

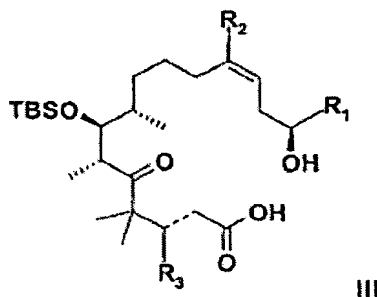
3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

(E)-(4S,7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;  
 (1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxo-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;  
 (3E,13E)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexodeca-3,13-diene-2,6-dione;  
 (E)-(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxo-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-6-ene-5,9-dione;  
 3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;and  
 (1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

Claim 5 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition[[],] comprising ~~a~~the compound of formula I according to claim 1, or a salt thereof, provided that salt-forming groups are present, ~~according to one of claims 1 to 4,~~ and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

Claims 6-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~A Process-process~~ for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that a compound of formula I may be prepared by ring closure of a~~ comprising the steps of closing the ring of a compound of formula III



followed by deprotection steps where necessary, wherein R1, R2 and R3 have the meaning defined in claim 1.